

LEPC/DES/E-9-1-1
MINUTES OF MEETING

Wednesday, July 7, 2021
Columbus Fire Hall
944 E Pike Ave, Columbus, MT 59019

MEMBERS PRESENT: Bill Pronovost, Shane Warehime, Terry Brumfield, Gene Daugherty, Kevin Ray, Chris Rasmussen, Mark Crago, Maureen Wiltshire, Brendan Wiltshire, Steph Ray, Weston Mitchum, Nick Jacobs, Rich Cowger, Travis Hansen, Natasha Sailer, Charlie Hansen, Josh Juarez, Marlo Pronovost

I. Call to Order

- a. Pledge to the Flag
- b. Introductions
- c. Natasha motioned to approve minutes. Gene Daugherty seconded. Minutes approved as presented.

II. DES/FIRE WARDEN

- a. Maureen. Stage 2 restrictions. Increase in no combustibles, 1am to 1pm. There are commercial and agriculture exceptions to the Stage 2 restrictions. Applications are available in the DES office.

III. E-9-1-1

- a. No update

IV. LEPC

- a. Bill stated that the school shooting exercise will occur at Absarokee High School sometime after school starts.

V. ROAD NAMES

- a. None

VI. ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

- a. Weston Mitchum gave a presentation on mask usage in some of the higher commercial traffic areas in the county. Josh stated that Weston's internship with Environmental Health was very helpful and that he did a number of projects such as scanning and condensing files, participated in septic inspections and completed the mask study.

VII. EXERCISE COMMITTEE

- a. Tabled until next meeting.

VIII. OTHER

- a. Natasha. There is currently one active case of COVID. Increase in sexually transmitted diseases, which is typical for this time of year. Campo factor salmonella is common with spring runoff – continue to wash hands, etc. Vaccines in the county have slowed significantly. Approximately 40% of the county has been vaccinated. Beartooth Manor had a COVID outbreak, some of the cases were in residents/staff that had been vaccinated. The Delta variant is becoming more common. The vaccine is less effective to this variant but may help with symptoms. Variant testing is done through the state on a random basis. Working on children's vaccines, ages 12+. Most are going to Billings for the vaccine. There is no update on the booster shot. The original vaccine is effective for longer than originally thought. People who have had covid and the vaccine appear to be inoculated longer. Flu testing is usually from Oct 1 to May 1. Started testing for flu and COVID around mid-November.
- b. Mark Crago thanked the committee for letting Weston do the presentation.
- c. Rich Cowger. DNRC has authorized severity staffing at Columbus and Park City. They are seeing less participation in the volunteer program this year. Helicopter in Billings is ready to go. Robertson draw fire in Red Lodge is indicating a rough fire season (two months ahead of schedule). City of Columbus is not in Stage 2. Recommendation was to go into Stage 2 fire restriction; however, they may do an ordinance assisting with additional restrictions. Some NICS teams are seeing staffing challenges and there is a shortage on caterers as well.